

Please note, the following notes were typed up directly from the flip chart notes taken at the meeting. City staff are currently working to identify consistent concerns and common themes, which will be posted separately.

Table 1

Session 1 9:30 – 10:30

Question: Sustainable Development" has been defined as: "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." When applying this idea to your life and your community, what does "sustainability" mean to you? What would "sustainable development" look like in your community?

Question: Parks, open spaces, the urban forest and other natural areas provide breathing room, shade and opportunities for rest and relaxation, contribute to environmental quality and provide wildlife habitat. How would you expand and enhance these opportunities in your community?

- Bradner Park came out of the work from Neighborhood Planning (Partially)
- Pedestrian Connections
- Walkable, shopping, restaurants
- Suffers from a lack of good shopping
- 30 years ago was able to walk to places to gather materials for needs, but not now
- Recreational facilities are needed as community grows
- Parks being added are not playgrounds
- Sustainable neighborhoods need kid friendly facilities
 - Both formalized and non-structured
- No bike lanes – non existent
 - Biking in North Rainier Valley is dangerous – Rainier Avenue especially
- Topography affecting greatly the bicycle connections
- Streets are not good quality for biking
- Shopping districts without on street parking is a negative and affecting retail vibrancy/comm. Vibrancy
 - frequent turnover
- Need to have the complementing density to create that retail/comm. vibrancy, mixed use
- Moving people rather than vehicles
- Must have the shops selling the things households need!
- Neighborhood use to have the services available here
- Arterials are death to North Rainier Valley. Question whether the plan with emphasis on station area has selected right locale.
- Also neighborhood planning needs to be more expansive than the town center
- Multiple centers! QFC- Lowes Combo

Question: The new light rail and reliable bus service provide alternatives to driving and are better for the environment. Will you be using the light rail? If yes, how will you get to the station nearest to where you live?

- The station creates some conflict around the multiple centers and picking the right locations for these
- Light Rail Station multimodal connections are a mess, hindering the creation of good shopping center –site has bad truck access
- Terrible intersection to sight for a town center

Question: Walking and biking can also be healthier choices - for you and for the environment. is it safe and easy to get where you want to go by walking or biking? How about for your children getting to school?

- For the disabled, the connections are terrible/getting around is difficult
- Pedestrian bridge and the messy connection
- Use to be a working class neighborhood – Development geared towards wealth and affecting the livability to working people
- Development referring to new construction around the light rail station – gentrification in these neighborhoods with Light Rail coming
- Ways to prevent is making mixed income housing available
- Provide housing for the future through zoning
- Stairway Connections should be looked at as pedestrian connections, lots of opportunities here
- Using ROW in a different fashion, for
 - P-patches
 - Small parks
 - Habitat
 - Increased Tree canopy
- Collaboration between departments to take unused land to create above examples
- Look for vacant pieces of land to be used for recreation and eventually add a bikeway/commuter path
- How are people outside the station area getting there?
- Steep slopes hide and thin sidewalks
- Stairways
- Promote non motorized modes of transportation

Table 1, Session 2 10:30 – 11:30

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Question: Parks, open spaces, the urban forest and other natural areas provide breathing room, shade and opportunities for rest and relaxation, contribute to environmental quality and provide wildlife habitat. How would you expand and enhance these opportunities in your community?

- MLK Park is underutilized
- Not well promoted
- Safety Concerns
 - No "eyes on the park"
- Improve "functionality" of park
- Connectivity (i.e. connect with Community orgs like SEED)
- Make park more active
- Maybe a building to hold cultural & art events
- Empower residents to help maintain the Park
- Who can organize the community?
- Near I-90 LID there are a variety of activities going on
- Need better lighting for safety
- More "eyes"
- Good Streetscapes support
- Many key activities – need better designs/make better connections especially to parks
- Need community center with swimming pool
- Need senior center

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Question: Walking and biking can also be healthier choices - for you and for the environment. is it safe and easy to get where you want to go by walking or biking? How about for your children getting to school?

- Let's be able to walk to Light Rail Station
- Living close to I-90 is not too useful today
- Limited connectivity to White Center, West Seattle
- Downtown oriented
- Good to Airport
- Walking to Rail station is hard without good pedestrian facilities to connect from neighborhoods
- How about grade separated bike facility?
 - Curb separation
 - Restriping
- You can reduce car use with good transit
- Rainier needs to be made more attractive and safer for walking
- Change character and feel of Rainier Avenue South
- New Target will Greatly increase traffic on Rainier and adjacent streets

- Need more pedestrian bridges over Rainier – will that only attract more traffic?
- Rainier is good as North – South auto connection
- MLK Way has too many signals
- New transit connection from Rainier to E side
- Need better bike connection considering topography
- As new businesses develop may need more on site parking
- Build Parking facility at Henderson and near i-90, and take shuttle bus to SE Neighborhoods
- Rainier Valley “Clean Up”?

Table 1, Session 3 11:30 – 12:30

Question: Sustainable Development" has been defined as: "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." When applying this idea to your life and your community, what does "sustainability" mean to you? What would "sustainable development" look like in your community?

- New development and businesses being build green
- Solar, water considerations
- Look at what can be done to the existing environment
- North Rainier Valley should become a green tech HUB. Bring knowledge, tech, example
- Bring the industry to the North Rainier Valley
- More trees, no more cutting them down
- Maintain green areas
- With the new development, supporting the environment via live/work in neighborhoods
- Create a community that doesn't require using energy and transportation
- Extension campus UW equals livable/great jobs in NRV
- Microsoft, Cisco, Gates Foundation equals livable/great jobs in NRV
- Collective Neighborhood Program focus on meeting your neighbors can help educate each other. Know your neighborhood and neighbors, culture to make culturally sensitive/appropriate, to educate on climate change
 - Neighborhood organized
- Train people/leaders from these different ethnic communities so they can train each other
 - Climate liaison
- Support programs/methods to bring cultures up to speed and so everyone can have some common ground. Right now in transition
- Lighting and safety on Cheasty Blvd
- Better lighting for pedestrians
- Having the services available in the neighborhood to be access
 - Residents can travel very easily
- Love to have organic food source in neighborhood
- Year round farmers market in neighborhood
 - Provide cultural ingredients, spices, ect
 - Near Light Rail

Question: The new light rail and reliable bus service provide alternatives to driving and are better for the environment. Will you be using the light rail? If yes, how will you get to the station nearest to where you live?

- Light Rail and Busses need to be well lighted for safety
- Make Rainier a safer place for crossing
 - Traffic calming
- In pavement lighting to cross Rainier Ave and other heavily traveled roads
- Regarding parks & trails: While natural is nice, keep it safe. Low level lighting

Question: Walking and biking can also be healthier choices - for you and for the environment. is it safe and easy to get where you want to go by walking or biking? How about for your children getting to school?

- Bicycling is difficult and feels unsafe. I-go
- Promote more recycling education
- More outreach to diverse communities about these issues
 - Have some materials translated but also utilize oral translation/announcements
 - Have more city employees who can speak these languages
- Internships with city and diverse community teens to bridge translation issues
- Relook at zoning to promote density that makes sense
- Reuse construction materials in remodeled/new development in NRV
- Subsidized program to get rid of inefficient household appliances to upgrade to more energy efficient (fridge, water heater and washer)
 - City Light & Conservation Program

Table 2

Session 1 9:30 – 10:30

Question: Sustainable Development" has been defined as: "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." When applying this idea to your life and your community, what does "sustainability" mean to you? What would "sustainable development" look like in your community?

- Access to basic needs / services eg: lacks clothing store
- Need mechanisms to encourage more retail
- Integration of bus and light rail
- Development can't exceed transit capacity
- New development must fit with what's already there
 1. Physically
 2. Economically
 3. Culturally
- New uses must come with new services to be good neighbor
- Don't wipe the slate clean i.e. avoid gentrification

Notes from Group 3, Towards Sustainability

- Change is happening too quickly – needs to be better managed
- Immigrant experience:
 1. Language barrier
 2. Skills are not useable here
 3. Cultural differences
 4. Need resources to help buy businesses and homes e.g. rent to own
- Increased ownership – businesses and homes buildings

Question: Walking and biking can also be healthier choices - for you and for the environment. is it safe and easy to get where you want to go by walking or biking? How about for your children getting to school?

- Need for safe crossings on MLK and Rainier e.g. overpass
- MLK & Rainier need bike lanes
- Or...dedicated bike streets
- Cheasty bike path

Question: Global climate change is a serious concern. What steps should our community take to address this problem?

- Re-use is more sustainable than new construction
- Leverage what's here ADU / DADU
- Dearborn Mall not the right model

Security

- School security / cultural security / economic security

Ownership

- Land
- Buildings
- Homes
- Businesses

Barriers

- Affordable housing/ displacement/ access to housing
- Language
- Paperwork
- Capitol \$\$\$
- Need family sized housing for families - 3+ bedrooms
- Safety – for bikes and pedestrians
- This process is too fast, need more time, more outreach. Need to better understand dynamics of complex issues like gentrification

Table 2, Session 2 10:30 – 11:30

Question: Parks, open spaces, the urban forest and other natural areas provide breathing room, shade and opportunities for rest and relaxation, contribute to environmental quality and provide wildlife habitat. How would you expand and enhance these opportunities in your community?

- Need event spaces in parks – “social halls”
- Filipinos’ used to use Rainier playfield – moved to Seward Park
- Undesirable activity in park – closure hours
- Parks need shelters
- Parks are underperforming – not reaching their potential –e.g. Cheasty

Question: The new light rail and reliable bus service provide alternatives to driving and are better for the environment. Will you be using the light rail? If yes, how will you get to the station nearest to where you live?

- Too much distance between stations
- Concern over parking conflict w/ small business “hide and Ride”
- build pay lots around parking
- train needs to be convenient freq service & access to stations, bus schedule timing
- Transit system orientation should speak to specific group’s needs
 - seniors
 - foreign language speakers
- Safety and security is an issue
- getting to the station is an issue

Question: Walking and biking can also be healthier choices - for you and for the environment. is it safe and easy to get where you want to go by walking or biking? How about for your children getting to school?

- Rainier is flat but dangerous – has potential / good access
- Sidewalks are too narrow need pedestrian / bike plan for station area
- Bus transfer station on wrong side of Rainier →makes mode transfer inconvenient and unsafe
- Wide sidewalks
 1. Can landowners donate land to ROW?
 2. Good for everyone – bus and residents

Question: Global climate change is a serious concern. What steps should our community take to address this problem?

Sustainability

- Not temporary : preserve
- Outreach to educate:
 1. Religious inst
 2. Government
- Better emergency preparedness
- Need community gathering places to bring people to one place to exchange ideas – to help newcomers adjust

No real center here

- Neighborhood Center is lacking now it is parking lots and streets
- No identifiable town center / heart
- → Should be near the corner of McClellan and Rainier
- China town has elderly center – residents travel there would prefer to find those services / activities in the community
- Safety along MLK Way is an issue
 1. Lighting
 2. Built environment feels unsafe, isolated
 3. Stations too far apart
 4. Street does not feel walk able B/T stations
- ACRS losing clients B/C of reduced bus service
- Pedestrians don't cross at intersections, feels unsafe for drivers
- Need Ethiopian counseling center/services (same for other immigrants, women, and other groups)

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- Use public buildings more for community activity
- Rainier community center costly for non-profit & community groups
- Public buildings need to be more active and programmed
- Lowes – potential heart of community convergence of greenways

Question: Parks, open spaces, the urban forest and other natural areas provide breathing room, shade and opportunities for rest and relaxation, contribute to environmental quality and provide wildlife habitat. How would you expand and enhance these opportunities in your community?

- Draw map with just parks & identify a green park ring around station
- Cheasty may not be appropriate for activated park space
- A heart of the neighborhood is missing everything
 1. People / walking
 2. Housing w/balconies, stoops, variety of heights
- Arterials are an impediment to town center, offset the center or cluster centers around redesigned boulevards, maze of alleys
- Buildings need to address street / no parking b/t buildings & street
- Need on street parking to serve main street businesses & buffer pedestrians

Question: The new light rail and reliable bus service provide alternatives to driving and are better for the environment. Will you be using the light rail? If yes, how will you get to the station nearest to where you live?

- Station too far from residence & would not have enough bus service access
- Walking through QFC is a barrier
 1. Mugging
 2. Hostile environment for pedestrians
 3. Need more people & store fronts
- Walk to QFC frequently
- Biking
 1. Down valley works (relatively flat) direct; links destinations
 2. East – West too hilly
 3. Cheasty/beacon are good routes; but valley needs alternatives especially on Rainier
- East – West connections across Cheasty Blvd are needed
- Use development along Cheasty @ station to bridge some of the topography
- Strip zoning along arterials
 1. Concentrate development at node
- Don't let the heart bleed out!
- Need to set the table through
 1. Zoning
 2. Enhancing Rainier Ave
- Healthy, sustainable, walkable urbanism